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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/869,003	09/25/2001	Giuseppe Scala	15280-3862US	6807

7590

09/12/2002

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EXAMINER

STUCKER, JEFFREY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1648

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Group Art Unit

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
 - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

I. Claims 1-10, drawn to an antigenic peptide, classified in Class 435, subclass 324+.

II. Claims 11-13, drawn to a method for raising antibodies, classified in Class 424, subclass 208.1.

III. Claims 14-15, drawn to a binding protein, classified in Class 530, subclass 387.9.

IV. Claim 16, drawn to a method to induce passive immunity, classified in Class 424, subclass 139.1.

V. Claim 17, drawn to a method for detecting HIV-1 in a sample, classified in Class 435, subclass 5.

VI. Claim 18, drawn to a method for detecting antibodies, classified in Class 435, subclass 7.1.

VII. Claim 19, drawn to a method of selecting antibodies, classified in Class 435, subclass 7.1.

VIII. Claim 20, drawn to a peptide specific for antibodies, classified in Class 530, subclass 300.

VIX. Claims 21-23, drawn to a phagotope, classified in Class 435, subclass 235.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The inventions of Groups I, III, VIII, and VIX are different from each other because the compositions have different chemical structures, characteristics, and uses.

The inventions of Groups II, IV, V, VI, and VII are drawn to different methods that require different reagents, different steps, and have different expected results.

The compositions are distinct from the methods because the products can be used for multiple, materially different methods. For example, a peptide can be used to raise antibodies or capture antibodies in an immunoassay. Antibodies can be used to capture antigens in immunoassays as well as for use in passive immunotherapy.

The claims of the Groups are drawn to multiple sequences. Each of the different sequences are independent and distinct inventions because no common structural or functional properties are shared. Accordingly, these sequences are each subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Regardless of the Group elected, Applicant is additionally required to elected a single sequence, which if determined to be patentable, would also be patentably distinct from other sequences. This requirement is made under 1192 O.G. 68 Notice (November 19, 1996), as examination of

more than one sequence in one application would result in an undue burden on the PTO. This is not an election of species requirement.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

MPEP 806.05 (h) A product and a process of using the product can be shown to be distinct inventions if either or both of the following can be shown: (A) the process of using as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product; or (B) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process.

The burden is on the examiner to provide an example, but the example need not be documented. If the applicant either proves or provides a convincing argument that the alternative use suggested by the examiner cannot be accomplished, the burden is on the examiner to support a viable alternative use or withdraw the requirement.

Applicant is advised that a rejoinder of claims is possible at a later date if the product is eventually found patentable. Guidance on treatment of product and process claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. §103(b) is set forth in the Commissioner's Notice of February 28, 1996 published on March 26, 1996 at 1184 O.G. 86.

To facilitate examination under § 103, where product and process claims are presented in the same application, applicant may be called upon under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect claims to either the product or process. The claims to the non-elected invention will be withdrawn from further consideration. However, in the case of an elected product claim, rejoinder will be permitted when a product claim is found allowable and the withdrawn process claim depends from or otherwise includes all the limitations of an allowed product claim. Withdrawn process claims not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. In the event of rejoinder, the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104 - 1.106. If the application containing the rejoined claims is not in condition for allowance, the subsequent Office action may be made final, or, if the application was already under final rejection, the next Office action may be an advisory action.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

Papers related this application may be submitted to Group 1648 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1648 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG (November 15, 1989).

The Group 1648 Fax numbers are: (703) 308-4242 and (703) 305-3014.

Unofficial communications may be faxed to: (703) 308-4426.

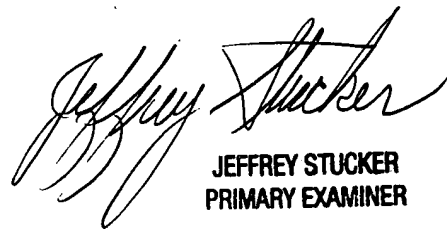
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey Stucker whose telephone number is (703) 308-4237. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Thursday from 7:00am to 5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Housel, can be reached on (703) 308-4027.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.



JEFFREY STUCKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER